

# PLAIN TALKS

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1941

## STATIC

### TRANSFERS ...



Thelma Carson (1), home economist, from Beaumont to Central division . . . Willie Mae Holliday (2), Beaumont, from steno to advertising department steno . . . Elaine Long (3), Beaumont, from billing to steno in rate department . . .

Don Boring (4), Port Arthur, meter to engineering . . . Harry Leicht, Jr. (5), meter, from Beaumont to Navasota . . . And last but not least, the forgotten man Rex Lee (6). Rex transferred from Beaumont rate to engineering way back in May but our grapevine was asleep at the switch and didn't report the change.

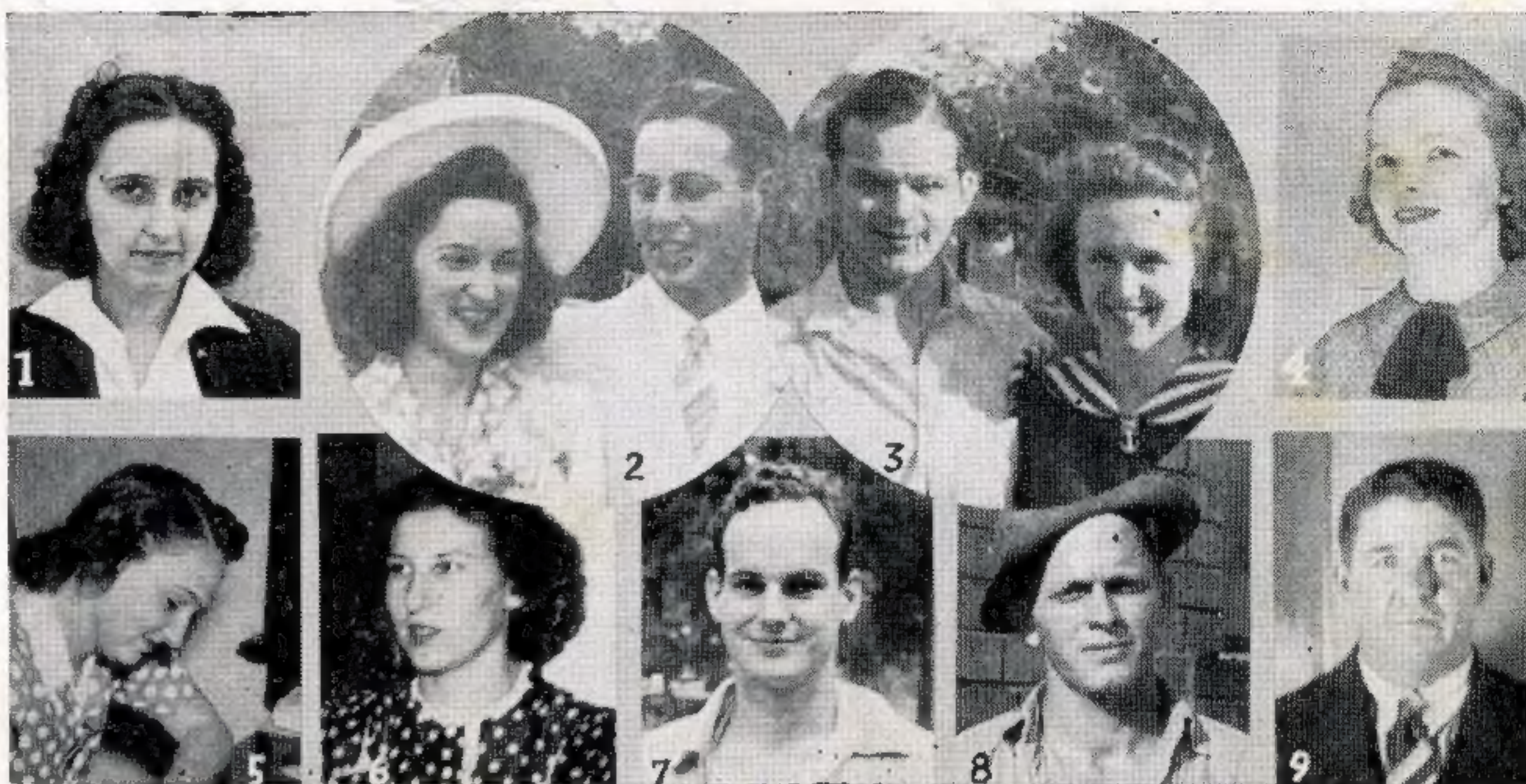
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Doug Latimer, Baton Rouge electric engineering recently reported for duty in Atlanta, Georgia after receiving a Lieutenant's commission in the U. S. Navy . . .



\* \* \* \*  
(Continued on page 3)

## DOWN THE MIDDLE AISLE



Beatrice LeBlanc (1) took leave of the Orange office, the vows and unto herself a husband, Eugene DuChamp . . . (2) Jay Ewing, Beaumont accounting, and the young lady who recently changed her name from Jolois Fuqua to Mrs. Ewing . . . (3) Beaumont Gulf Staters Bill Hurt of accounting and cashier Lyda Drouet strode the middle aisle and thereby raised our percentage as a prognosticator of portending nuptials . . . Since August 22 Dot Johnson (4) of Baton Rouge accounting will harken if addressed as Mrs. Basil Tolle . . .

Just as we were getting used to having Mary Holman (5) of Beaumont customer accounts in the Gulf States family she ups and becomes Mrs. Jerome Parish . . . Baton Rouge purchasing department lost Mabel Rome (6) to Norman Marchal . . . Benedict since August 16 is Johnny Harrop (7), Baton Rouge accountant. The former Hazel Sims of Lake Charles is the Missus.

We've no particulars on the marriage of Jack Doiron (8) of Beaumont line except that he is hitched and contends that a guy who stays single is a chump . . . John Wiggins (9), Louisiana Station, took unto himself a bride, Sybil Ayres of Castor, Louisiana . . .

## SOFTBALLERS FINISH SEASON



The softball season curtain rang down on the Gulf States Beaumont team when they were eliminated in the early rounds of the City League playoff.

Left to right—(front row) Mainord, sales; Baird, production; Hammond, advertising; Sparks, distribution; Murray, line. . . (back row) Henderson, line; Layson, production; Conway, line; Griffith, billing; Anawaty, sales.

Manager Larkin of sales; Griffin, Steel and Henriksen of production were not present when this picture was taken.



## NEW EMPLOYEES . . . . .





## NECHES WINS 1941 CROWN IN INTER-DEPARTMENT PLAY



The regular annual riot occurred recently, namely, the Beaumont interdepartment softball championship playoff.

Repeating the 1940 performance, the Production team (top) tied up with the Sales aggregation (bottom) to battle it out for the coveted trophy and, as in 1940, the boys from Neches Station emerged the winners, this time with three straight victories in a three out of five series. Last year the Sales put up a little more opposition and if we remember rightly the playoff went clear into the "monsoon" season.

Anyway it's over and us with an affinity to decrepitness can relax the weary bones until next season.

Production:—Left to right (front row) O'Brien, Parker, Zahn, White, Henckel, Griffin, Monlezum and the mascot for the occasion, young Henckel. (back row) Sandige, Lasyon, Barrett, Steele, Davant, Strong and Lewis.

Sales:—Left to right (front row) Connaughton, Mainord, Anawaty, Spafford and Honsberger; (back row) Dawson, Jay, Griffith, Thompson and Shear.

Guidry of production, McCormick, Larkin, Reese and Weller of sales were absent when the picture was taken.

## STATIC

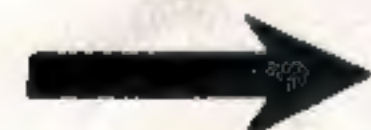
(Continued from page 1)

Harvey Bowlin (1), Baton Rouge substation, handed out the cigars to celebrate the August 1 arrival of Willie Harvey Junior . . . To A. M. Jacobson (2), Beaumont line, nine pound daughter Louise Rose, born August 21 . . . Six pound six ounce son John William to A. G. "Tony" Fontana (3) of Beaumont stores accounts on August 14 . . . Daughter Monnie Katherine to J. L. East (4), Beaumont line, on August 14, six pounds two ounces . . . George L. Johnson (5), Neches Station, is proud pater to son Carl Lynn who weighed in on August 22 at eight pounds two ounces . . .

E. E. Young (6), Beaumont line, held out on us last issue by not reporting the July 18 arrival of nine pound son Ernest Junior . . . D. M. Doan (7), Navasota garage, broke into this column in last issue but his picture got in too late for publication . . . Jimmy Crabbe of Beaumont sales timed his vacation with the August 25 debut of a seven pound seven ounce daughter so no picture of Jimmy was available . . .



(Continued on page 5)



Peggy Gilbert (1) and Dora Mae Frankland (2), Beaumont steno . . . Laura Smith (3), Orange cashier . . . Joyce Braud (4), Baton Rouge accounting . . . Aline Kinchen (5), Baton Rouge purchasing . . . Gertheen Gardner (6), Hull cashier . . . Ruby Hill (7) and Ethel Manuel (8), Beaumont customer accounts . . . Mary Beth Parish (9), Beaumont billing . . . Susie Stuart (10), Beaumont accounting . . .

Ira Milliman (11), Lafayette sales . . . James Sanchez (12) and John Lewis (13), Baton Rouge customer accounts . . . P. Renkema (14), W. B. Tyner (15) and C. Davis (16), Beaumont line . . . Chester Cartlidge (17), Port Arthur line . . . G. J. Burleson (18), C. B. Moss (19) and Perry Dickinson (20), Lake Charles line . . .

Houston Dickerson (21) and Willie Seale (22), Neches Station . . . Louis Chachere (23) and Jesner Hopkins (24), Lafayette line . . . Carl Shannon (25), Beaumont distribution . . . Anthony Printz (26) and Andrew Blanchard (27), Baton Rouge garage . . . W. A. Read Junior (28) and C. A. Pfeiffer (29), Beaumont engineering . . . Pierre LaVergne (30) and Adam Dupree (31), Jennings line . . .

Aeron Wallace (32) and Joe Winborn (33), Baton Rouge line . . . Leroy Martin (34), Robert Tulusso (35) and George Stovall (36), Louisiana Station . . . Harry Sumrall (37), Baton Rouge billing . . . James Shreve (38), Baton Rouge construction accounting . . . Hollis Cain (39), Baton Rouge storeroom . . . Merlin Robinson (40), Baton Rouge electric engineering . . .

No pictures were available of Ray Blanchard of Baton Rouge customer accounts nor J. R. Huff, Clarence Pearson and Ray Price of Baton Rouge Line . . .





(1) M. P. Jefferson, Production—Orange; (2) I. B. Johnson, Sales—Beaumont; (3) Homer Kirkwood, Accounting—Lake Charles; (4) L. LaCour, Production—Port Arthur; (5) R. W. Landers, Accounting—Baton Rouge; (6) L. L. Landry, Production—Beaumont; (7) R. J. Landry, Sales—Lake Charles; (8) R. H. Lawton, Production—Beaumont; (9) H. C. Leonard, Vice-president—Baton Rouge; (10) T. H. Lindsey, Distribution—Beaumont; (11) J. H. Linnehan, Accounting—Beaumont; (12) C. F. Lively, Distribution—Port Arthur; (13) M. B. Marshall, Production—Beaumont; (14) J. L. McCrary, Sales—Lake Arthur.



## S T A T I C

(Continued from page 3)

This'n that from here and yon . . . Marguerite Carter (1), Lake Charles transmission and distribution steno, was recently elected 1941-42 president of the Lake Charles Business and Professional Women's Club . . . Beaumont Gulf Staters Adrienne Glynn (2), customer accounts; Rhea Ridley (3), production; Ruth Wilbanks (4), meter records and Mary Lilyerstrom (5), accounting, were appointed to committees to serve Beaumont Business and Professional Women's Club for 1941-42 season . . .

Assistant treasurer J. M. DeBouy (6) has been selected as a committeeman by Beaumont Kiwanis Club to lay plans for the October convention of that organization . . . DR supervisor J. B. Bishop (7) and purchasing agent R. J. Orrick (8) are serving as observers for the Beaumont north end post of civilian aircraft warners. Mr. Bishop is chief observer and Mr. Orrick is a chief assistant . . .



\* \* \* \*

**RESIGNATIONS . . .** Lewis Lengnick left Beaumont distribution to accept a position in the engineering department of the Hawaiian Electric Company in Honolulu . . . W. L. Trumper of Beaumont engineering left for Boston, Massachusetts to assume a position

## SAFETY RECORD FETED



The occasion pictured above was the celebration of the continuation of the unusual safety record, now stretched to over 1700 days, which the Gas department is compiling. Instead of having a formal dinner, with speeches, the department decided to be strictly informal and have a good time with good eats at the H-C-L-L Camp near Denham Springs. The chicken, barbecued by Chefs Hodge and Lopez, practically fell apart at the sight of a tooth and the sauce was delectable. It was the unanimous opinion of all present that if a similar party was held every 150 days the safety record would be extended indefinitely.

The report, which appeared in a recent issue of "Plain Talks," concerning the culinary triumphs of "Puck" Steele, Baton Rouge purchasing agent, resulted in cries of "monopoly" and a rumor that the situation was being investigated by federal trust buster Thurman Arnold. However, the Gas department exploded Steele's bubble by uncovering not one but two barbecue experts in the persons of sales manager Jim Hodge, and new business Agent Norman Lopez.

**FLASH:**—The Hit & Run Detective Agency, in a confidential report, makes plain the fact that "in barbecue the sauce is the thing," and that Messrs. Steele, Hodge, and Lopez are only hollow shells as chefs. The sauce-maker who made possible the renown achieved by all three of these gentlemen was MRS. Puck Steele. Three cheers and a tiger for Nan, fellows, and a hearty bco to those who have been basking in the spotlight in her stead.



Lengnick



Trumper



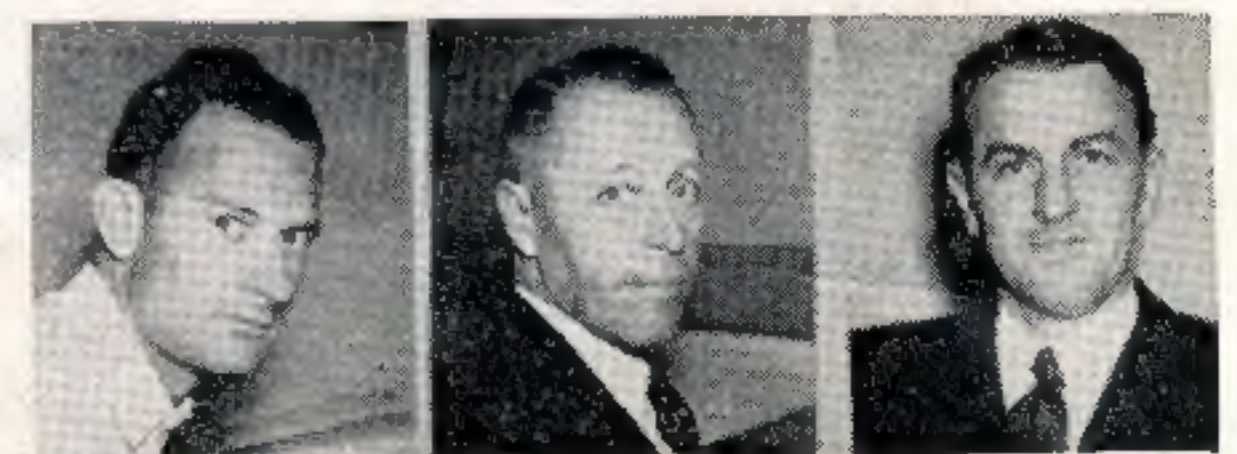
Knapp

with Stone and Webster Engineering corporation . . . J. P. Knapp is also in Boston working with Stone and Webster Engineering corporation after saying goodbye to Beaumont sales . . .

Also on the resignation list are . . . Jewell Achord, Baton Rouge cashier . . . Gus Gulley, Orange production . . . W. H. Hall, Port Arthur engineering . . . E. L. Stampely, Huntsville production . . . Jayne Conley, Beaumont steno . . . Tom Curtis and Homer Deslatte, both of Baton Rouge line . . . Sidney Gray, Lake Charles lighting . . . Sylvan Cromer, Baton Rouge gas . . . Raymond Waldrip, Liberty line . . . Joe Talbot, Beaumont meter . . . Frank Middleton, Baton Rouge customer accounts . . .

John Holliday, Lake Charles customer accounts . . . Hubert Ward, Hull sales . . . James Cotton, Maringouin DR . . . Mercedes Champagne, Lake Charles home economist . . . J. H. Haywood, Liberty ice . . . Thomas McAdams, Louisiana Station . . .

\* \* \* \*



Here are some Beaumont Gulf Staters who know what they're doing when they get hold of a golf club.

In recent match play in the 1941 annual Beaumont municipal golf course championship Sterling Oliver (left), engineering, won second flight honors while Charley Shrigley (center), statistics, and Bill Thomson (right) power sales, were finalists in the third and fourth flights respectively.

\* \* \* \*

(Continued on page 6)



## S T A T I C

(Continued from page 5)



Lum Jordan (left) and Lee Henery (right), both of Lake Charles meter department, brought in this fine string from a recent stalking of the finny denizens.

Dad' burn it! We had the most noble intentions of staying to home during our vacation and getting the yard in shape but if these guys keep sending in pictures of handsome catches durned if we don't dig out the fishing tackle and hie away to the fishing grounds for the duration.

\* \* \* \*



Bobby Riegel, son of general sales manager L. F. Riegel, upset all the dope and again gained national repete, when, in the recent national amateur golf championship, he stunned the golf world by eliminating the favorite, 1934 open champion and 1937 amateur titleholder Johnny Goodman, in the first round on Goodman's own home course.

Bobby went on to the semi-finals where he was defeated by Bud Ward, the 1939 champion, but this doesn't alter the fact that his performance was just great. After

all, Bobby is a working man who only plays a couple of times a week while the majority of entrants in a tournament such as this are fellows who live, eat and sleep golf and spend most of their waking hours practicing and improving their games.

\* \* \* \*

Thanks to R. W. "Bob" Sherwood of Lake Charles transmission and distribution for this snapshot of himself and young sons taken in Colorado during the Sherwood's vacation jaunt. Thanks to Mrs. Sherwood for a swell bit of photography.



\* \* \* \*

"Bully" Redfield of Baton Rouge credits and collections is still suffering from shell-shock resulting from a recent encounter with a customer who came into his office and paid a bill.

You say there's nothing unusual about that? Well, there was in this instance for the bill involved was dated 1920.

Sez "Bully", "I don't know whether that bill was paid or not. Our records - - -".

"Our records show that it was not paid", interrupted the customer.

"Bully" gurgled, "Well, we - - -".

Again the customer interrupted. "Here's our check for \$144.72 which represents the amount of the bill plus 8% simple interest for 21 years."

As the gentleman departed, he remarked to one of the employees, "You'd better go in and see about that fellow. He looks like he's going to faint. The heat musta' got him."



Believe it or not! Ava Mary Stevens of Beaumont credits and collections has "gone to the dogs" and just to prove that we know what we're talking about, the picture below shows Miss Stevens and her collection of pups.

Ava Mary makes a hobby of collecting dogs of all sizes and descriptions, not the live, bone-chomping kind but miniatures of glass, metal, china, wood, et cetera.



\* \* \* \*



Lieutenant Kirby Jones (left), formerly of Beaumont power sales recently had a visit from Captain Clarence Barron (right), former Beaumont lighting engineer, when Army business took Captain Barron to Aberdeen, Maryland where Lieutenant Jones was stationed.

\* \* \* \*



Randy McAlpine, former Beaumont DR, writes from away up in Red Bank, New Jersey where he's serving Uncle Sam and sends this snapshot of himself on a week-end at the beach . . .

(Continued on page 7)



## STATIC

(Continued from page 6)



Orchids to Joe Malbert, Sulphur serviceman, for his quick thinking and prompt action which probably saved the lives of four persons who were involved in a recent accident when a car in which they were riding plunged through the railing of a bridge on the Orange highway.

Joe led a party of men into the water in which the car was partially submerged, upside down, righted the vehicle and helped the victims, a man, a woman and two children, to safety.

\* \* \* \*

And here's Joe Hatley of Port Arthur repair department with a string that he and the party caught on a recent fishing trip.

Sav you guys! Did you lose your measuring stick? Anyway fish is fish and when you add 'em up the little ones count too.

No wonder we get reports that fishing is good but bait is scarce . . . Joe and the boys are catching all the bait . . .



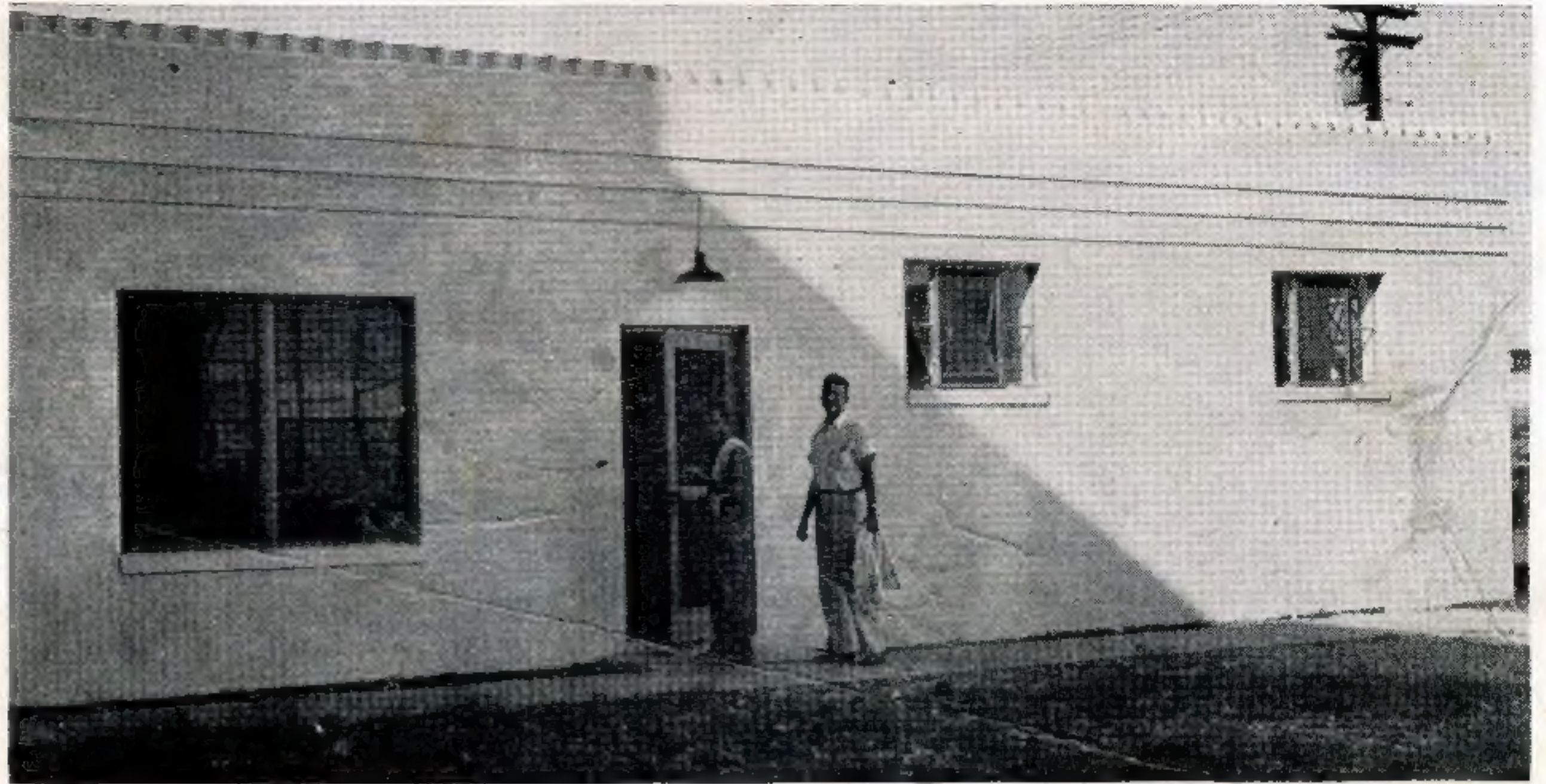
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## PLAIN TALKS

Published monthly by and for employees of Gulf States Utilities Company as a medium for a better appreciation of our responsibilities to each other and the public.

NEWS EDITORS: Don Brown, Louisiana Division, Baton Rouge; Bill Hammond, Texas Division, Beaumont.

ART EDITOR: Jack Gammage, Beaumont.  
EDITOR: Kenneth Sutton, Beaumont.



Comfort plus is what the fellows in the Port Arthur line, plant and service have to say about this new bathhouse and locker-room.

It's which there is no whither and a swell game room gives the boys a place to play dominoes, checkers and rummy.

Tony Fontana of Beaumont stores accounts came in for some clever ribbing on the occasion of the recent birth of Fontana heir #3.

The gang in Tony's department, aided and abetted by treasurer H. V. Faber, made out the stock card shown below and ran it through the stock accounting mill.

Notations on the reverse side of the card read as follows:— "Could not find the order for new boy"—Betty Mabry . . . "Did not get material receipt for new boy"—Bill Ricks . . . "No stock slip issued for new boy"—Evelyn Hoag . . . "All facts and figures certified incorrect"—Louis Maher . . . "No damage noted"—Virginia Hatton . . . "No overs, no shortage, no adjustments"—Amos Westbrook . . . "Can not be filed"—Carra Williams.

## BEAUMONT

### STOCK CARD

SD FORM A 223-2

DESCRIPTION GORGEOUS

MIN. 3 MAX. PPPPP

One brand New baby boy John William

UNIT COS. \$50,000,000.00

Fontana Heaven

ORDER NO. #3

INVOICE DATE 8-14-41

MATERIAL RECEIVED	QUANTITY	AMOUNT OF INVOICE	ADDITIONAL CHGS.	TOTAL COST
Mrs. Fontana	6 lb. 3 oz.	\$4950. Million	NC **	\$49,050,000.00

QUANTITY				QUANTITY			
DATE	REFERENCE	ISSUED	ON HAND	DATE	REFERENCE	ISSUED	ON HAND
* 1934	Inventory		1 <i>HT</i>				
# 1939	Iventory		2 <i>HT</i>				
* 1941	Inventory		3 <i>HT</i>				
<i>** STOCK DELIVERY SERVICE</i>							
<i>* B-2</i>							
<i>LOT # 6-1</i>							
<i>KON-3</i>							
ARTICLE <u>Baby, Boy</u>							

*There are no further shipments due. No unfilled orders on file as of 8-14-41*

# "THE STUFF FREEDOM IS MADE OF"

This is the time we bring out the old words and dust them off. Words like Liberty, Democracy, Freedom, Independence—battle-cry words that served us through the darkness of other wars.

This is the time, too, that we take stock of the stuff these words are made of. Words, even the greatest, wear thin with use. We need new inventories of the things they mean.

It isn't definitions we want. Definitions have a paralysis in their tails. They are for dictionaries and professors. You can't define freedom for a man, but you can point it out to him.

Freedom is a man at a lathe or a desk, doing the job he likes and speaking up for

himself.

It is a man in a pulpit or on a street corner preaching the word of his God.

It is a man puttering in his garden in the evening, smoking his pipe and swapping talk with his neighbor over the fence.

It is the unafraid faces of men and women and children at the beach on Sunday or looking out of car windows speeding along a four-lane highway.

It is a man saying, "Howdy, stranger," without looking cautiously over his shoulder.

It is Lindbergh telling the country how to sit tight. It is the country making up its own mind anyway.

It is a soprano singing the Star-Spangled

Banner off key and meaning every word of it.

It is a comedian cracking wise about anything and anybody.

It is couples making love in the park with a gallery of kibitzers.

It is Mrs. Roosevelt down in a coal mine. Freedom is the air you breathe and the sweat you sweat.

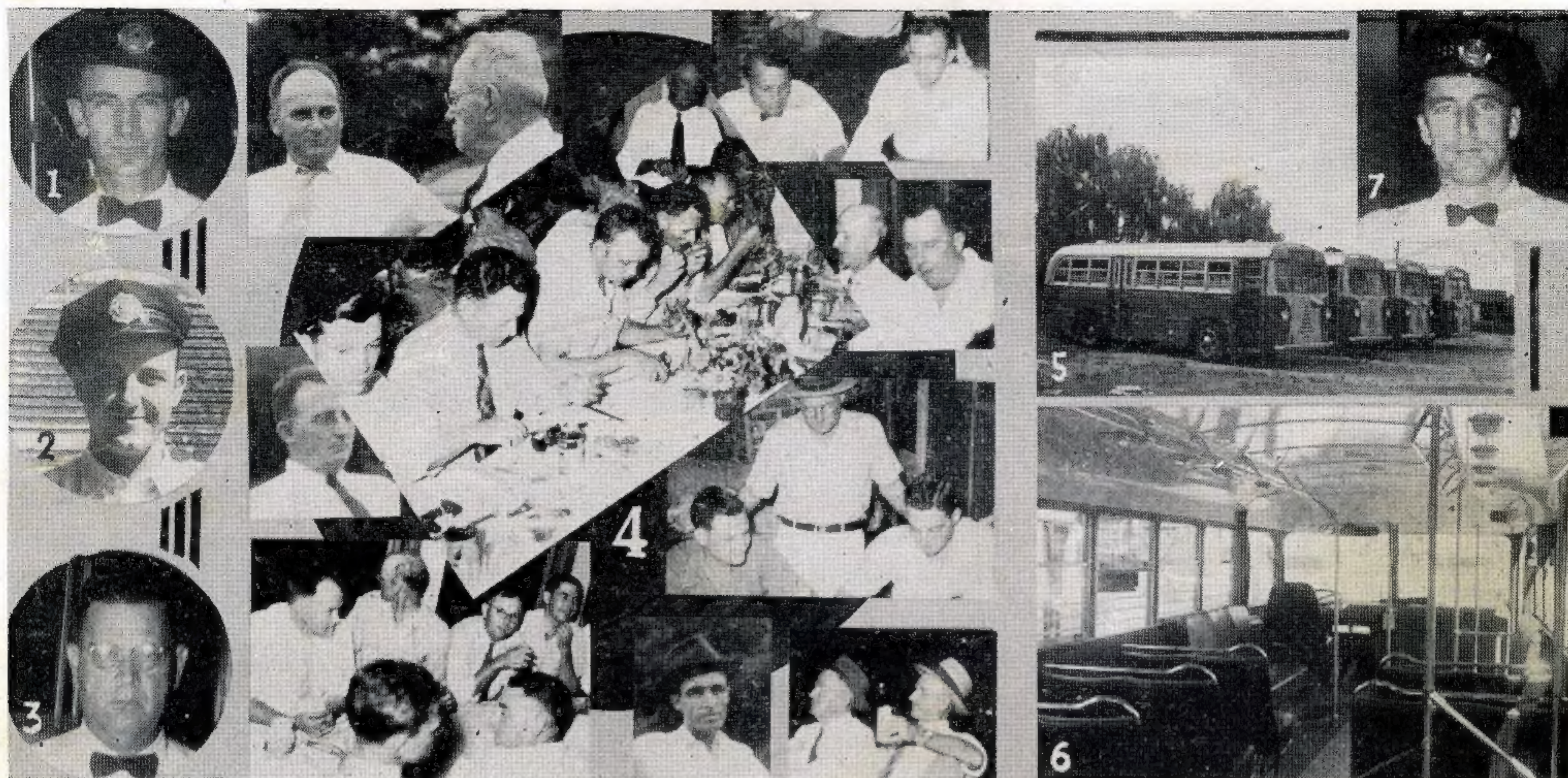
It is all the things you might have done and all the things you still will do if the breaks are right.

Freedom is you and 130,000,000 people like you with your chins up daring anybody with a funny haircut to take it away from you.

—Anonymous . . .



# BUS COMPANY NEWS FROM BATON ROUGE



## ITEM...

A nip and tuck safety contest was waged during the past six months by the two teams of bus operators. The goal was a chicken dinner, with boiled shrimp for an appetizer, at the Hoo Shoo Too Club. Unfortunately, the general public didn't know about the safety contest with the result that the two teams had a hard time holding down their frequency rates. Winning Captain Sid Smith (1) of the Preventers said, "It was a hard fight, but we won fair. No buttin', clippin', or hittin' in the clinches. I'll be right home, Maw!!" In rebuttal, Captain Martin (2) of the Dodgers cried, "If our left half-back could only block . . . anyway we wuz robbed. That umpire . . .!"

The Preventers and their guests (group 4) reaped the reward of better safety on the night of Tuesday, August 12. The shrimp was abundant and tasty, while the chicken - - - um! um!! And the ice cream fairly melted in your mouth.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of a 20-year club button to Bus Operator Neelis Tiner (3). D. J. "Frog" Babin was also scheduled to receive a 20-year button but was out of town on his vacation.

## ITEM...

Add new faces . . . Leon Messer (7), bus operator.

## ITEM...

A new twist has been given to an old childhood warning so it now reads, "Priorities'll git ya, ef ya don' watch out." Consequently, Uncle Dolph Delaroderie heaved a sigh of relief when he found that the rationing of this, that and the other was not going to be extended to the necessary maintenance materials and new equipment for city bus lines. Without wasting a minute he ordered four new buses knowing that, come fall, the Bus Company would face a shortage of passenger carriers unless something was done about it.

Last spring Uncle Dolph had thirty-one buses ranging from 25 passenger models with rear exit door to 21 passenger ancients that were in need of a complete overhaul before they could be used for anything except spare service. In all, only five of the total were available for replacements or special service over the peak hours and two of them needed repairing so badly that the Company had not bought licenses for them.

In May, popular demand brought into being a new line to serve virgin territory south-east of the city and made it necessary to complete the overhauling and license the two old buses, for the new line put two spares into regular service. Again in June the number of spares was reduced by starting a new line to serve territory north of the city with a single bus. These new lines coupled with a steady increase in riding on the older lines made it absolutely necessary that new buses be added to the fleet to insure the high standard of service which has been the Bus Company's chief pride for many years.

The new buses (Pictures 5 and 6), which have just been placed in service, are 28 passenger jobs with rear exit doors made by Mack. They are the largest units the Company has had since 1932 when it sold three 29-passenger Macks which had operated constantly for six years. They will make the bus operators happy because they have a shorter wheelbase than the other large buses and will be easier to maneuver in traffic and at corners.

"Bring on those football crowds," says Uncle Dolph. "With these new babies we can really handle 'em."